

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----122526 282145Z /72

R 280830Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5385
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 6324

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, CINCPAC JCS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR MASS KS US
SUBJ: SCM - SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

SUMMARY. TENTH SCM DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED: REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO KOREA'S DEFENSE, ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJOR ELEMENTS IN TROOP WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE, IDENTIFICATION OF SOME EQUIPMENT ITEMS TO BE TRANSFERRED OR SOLD TO ROK, OUTLINE OF U.S. INTENTIONS RE FINANCIAL ASSISTNACE, AID TO KOREAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY, AND FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS TO KOREA, AND INITIAL AGREEMENT ON BASES FOR ESTABLISHING COMBINED COMMAND. SECRETARY BROWN ALSO REAFFIRMED ROK INCLUSION UNDER U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA. OVERALL ATMOSHPERE OF SCM WAS BUSINESS LIKE THROUGHOUT. ROKS DID NOT CHALLENGE BASIC PREMISES OF WITHDRAWAL, BUT ROKS PRESSED HARD FOR ITEMS THEY WANTED - PARTICULARLY COMPLETION OF COMPENSATORY PACKAGE PRIOR TO WITHDRAWAL. THEY DID NOT HAGGLE HOWEVER, AND WHILE INDICATING THEY WILL BE BACK FOR MORE ACCEPTED CONCLUSIONS AS BASICALLY SATISFACTORY. END SUMMARY

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1. THE TENTH ANNUAL U.S.-ROK SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN SEOUL JULY 25-26, 1977, WITH DELEGATIONS HEADED RESPECTIVELY BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HARLD BROWN AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SO CHONG-CHOL. FORMAL DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN THREE PLENARY SESSIONS, ATTENDED BY ABOUT 40 PERSONS FROM EACH SIDE,

IN TWO "PRIVATE" SESSIONS WITH ABOUT 10 DELEGATES ON EACH SIDE, AND ONE TWO AND A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK (SEOUL 6243) ATTENDED BY 5 U.S. AND 7 ROK OFFICIALS APART FROM THE PRINCIPALS. ON JULY 26, THE DELEGATIONS ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT (USIS SEOUL 77-106, 261320Z) AND SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER SO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE (COMUSK 261250Z JUL 77).

2. A VERY SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF MEETING WAS LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT PAK REAFFIRMING U.S. COMMITMENT TO KOREAN DEFENSE. THIS LETTER WAS WIDELY PUBLISHED IN KOREAN MEDIA AND DESCRIBED BOTH IN EDITORIALS AND PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AS PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT REASSURANCE. MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION, BASED ON UNCLEARED MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATION, WERE AS FOLLOWS:

3. WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE - IT WAS AGREED AND ANNOUNCED IN COMMUNIQUE THAT: (A) U.S. WOULD WITHDRAW 6,000 PERSONNEL, 2,880 FROM 2D DIVISION AND 3,120 FROM OTHER EUSA UNITS BY END OF 1978, AND B) U.S. WOULD RETAIN TWO BRIGADES AND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS UNTIL FINAL PHASE OF WITHDRAWAL. SECRETARY BROWN CONFIRMED THAT U.S. AIR, NAVAL, LOGISTIC, COMMUNICATIONS, INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT WOULD REMAIN AVAILABLE. SECRETARY BROWN ALSO CONFIRMED IN PLENARY SESSION THAT WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE WOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW IN RELATION TO THE KOREAN SECURITY SITUATION AND PROGRESS
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OF PARALLEL EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ROK FORCES. IT WAS AGREED THAT 2D PHASE WOULD BE 9,000 PERSONNEL BY JUNE OR JULY 1980. SECRETARY REFUSED COMMITMENT SOUGHT BY ROKG SIDE THAT COMPENSATORY MEASURES WOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE WITHDRAWAL, BUT SAID THEY WOULD BE PARALLEL.

4. EQUIPMENT TRANSFER - SECRETARY PROVIDED LIST OF ITEMS U.S. PLANS TO TRANSFER ON COST-FREE BASIS, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. THESE ITEMS INCLUDE: TWO IMPROVED HAWK BATTALIONS, ONE HONEST JOHN BATTALION, 9 UH1H HELICOPTERS, 126 TWO SYSTEMS, ONE BATTERY 8" HOWITZERS, 173 APCs, TWO BATTALIONS ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, AND SOME TANKS OR TANK UPGRADING KITS, BUT NOT M-60s. ROK SOUGHT ADDITIONAL ITEMS, NOTABLY M-60 TANKS AND ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS, AMONG OTHERS. SECRETARY BROWN AGREED DOD WOULD PRODUCE BY MID-OCTOBER, ON BASIS OF CONSULTATION WITH ROK AND CONGRESS, A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ROK EQUIPMENT NEEDS, INDICATING WHETHER ITEMS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY COST-FREE TRANSFER, FMS CREDIT, OR CASH SALE. HE SAID U.S. THINKING IN TERMS OF 500 MILLION WORTH COST FREE, AT REPLACEMENT PRICES, BUT RECOGNIZED VIEWS ON PRICES MIGHT DIFFER. STRESSED EQUIPMENT LIST BE DRAWN UP FIRST WITHOUT

REFERENCE TO PRICES, AS PRESIDENT PAK HAD SUGGESTED.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 6324

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JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

5. ARMS SALE - SECRETARY SAID U.S. PREPARED TO SELL IMPROVED CHAPARRAL FOR DELIVERY ABOUT 1981, WOULD PROVIDE F-16 DATA NOW AND CONSIDER SALE IN 1981-82, BUT COPRODUCTION OF THESE TWO ITEMS NOT APPROVED. A-10 SALE COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED. U.S. WOULD AGREE TO SEEL VARIOUS OTHER WEAPONS INCLUDING ARTILLERY AND HELICOPTERS, BUT WOULD NOT RELEASE LANCE OR STINGER. "IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO TURN RED EYE OVER THE ROK WHEN U.S. FORCES DEPART IN LIEW OF STINGER."

6. RE FINANCE, SECRETARY INDICATED U.S. PLANNING SEEK \$275 MILLION FMS CREDIT ANNUALLY THROUGH FY81, AND ADDITIOANAL \$300 MILLION ON ONE TIME BASIS, IN ADDITON TO \$500 MILLION NO COST TRANSFERS. HE STRESSED THIS SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENT.

7. DEPLOYMENTS - U.S. AGREED TO INCREASE U.S. TACTICAL AIRCRAFT IN ROK FROM 60 TO 72, FROM OUTSIDE WESTERN PACIFIC. SECRETARY ALSO REPORTED U.S. PLANS ASSIGN AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL (AWACS) AIRCRAFT TO KADENA, FOR USE IN KOREA. HE INDICATED U.S. PLANNED INCREASE SIZE, FREQUENCY AND
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DURATION OF COMBINED EXERCISES WITH ROK FORCES.

8. ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRY. SECRETARY AGREED TO ASSIST ROK IN ARTILLERY PRODUCTION, IN DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN INDIGENOUS TANK, AND WOULD APPROVE COPRODUCTION OF VULCAN. HE ALSO AGREED U.S. WOULD WAIVE ROYALTIES ON PRODUCTION OF ITEMS FOR ROK DOMESTIC USE.

9. COMBINED COMMAND - STAFF PROPOSAL FOR COMBINED COMMAND WAS ACCEPTED AS BASIS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT STRUCTURE BY TIME FIRST WITHDRAWAL STAGE COMPLETED IN 1978.

10. WARTIME LOGISTIC SUPPORT - SECRETARY BROWN SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUED JOINT EFFORTS TO DETERMINE CONSUMPTION RATES, THE DURATION OF EXISTING STOCKS, THE U.S. AND ROK ABILITY TO INCREASE STOCKS ON HAND, AND HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO ESTABLISH A PIPELINE. HE ASSURED THE ROK, HOWEVER, THAT IN-COUNTRY STOCKS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY.

11. DISCUSSIONS WERE BUSINESSLIKE AND ROK OFFICIALS DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH BASIC WITHDRAWAL DECISION. MINISTER SO AND OTHERS TOOK POSITION THAT U.S. HAD MADE DECISION TO WITHDRAW, AND IT WAS FOR U.S. TO FIND MEANS OF FULFILLING COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY. WHILE INDICATING APPRECIATION FOR ITEMS U.S. AGREED TO PROVIDE, SO AND COLLEAGUES PRESSED STRONGLY FOR U.S. COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE COMPENSATORY PACKAGE BEFORE WITHDRAWAL, AND INDICATED ROKS MIGHT AGAIN RAISE SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT ITEMS, SUCH AS M-60 TANKS, AND STINGER AND LANCE MISSILES.

12. PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER SO AT END OF MEETING OCCASIONED FURTHER SIGNIFICANT
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STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY. SECRETARY BROWN OBSERVED THAT HE EXPECTED U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL TO AID KOREAN STABILITY BY CREATING SITUATION IN WHICH THAT STABILITY DOES NOT DEPEND ON U.S. PRESENCE, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE COMPENSATORY ASSISTANCE, AND REAFFIRMED THAT KOREAN REMAINS UNDER UNCLEAR UMBRELLA OF U.S. FORCES.
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